

Wheels and Heels – January 2006

Email news from MoDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Caryn Giarratano

Greetings Windbenders,

Scenic Byway Program – I have been assigned a new responsibility -- coordinator of the Missouri Scenic Byways Program. I am looking forward to learning how we can connect this program to the bike/ped program to advance both in our state. See ...

http://www.modot.mo.gov/business/outdoor_advertising/ScenicByways.htm.

Pilot Project – Congress designated Columbia and three other cities to each receive about \$20 million to build an interconnected nonmotorized transportation system within the city to create a modal shift from the use of cars to bicycling and walking to reduce traffic congestion. The four cities are working together with the Federal Highway Administration to determine how to measure the baseline rate of current bicycle/pedestrian trips. Columbia is reviewing its present interconnected nonmotorized transportation plan, working out the necessary staffing, and appointing advisory and technical committees to work on planning and choosing projects. The ultimate decisions lie with the Columbia city council. It is hoped the first projects will be started during the next construction season. See ... <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/>.

Trailmap – The Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has created a state strategic plan, *Missouri's Trailmap for Nonmotorized Transportation*. The *Trailmap* is a guide for BPAC and potential partners. It is designed to increase the visibility of the bike/ped direction needed for Missouri, to enhance understanding of this direction and to build support with regular updates planned. The vision is to make Missouri a world-class state in which to bike and walk, and the mission is to promote a higher quality of life for all Missourians through safe and accessible nonmotorized transportation. This plan addresses bicycle and pedestrian needs in our state in four categories: engineering, enforcement, education and encouragement. Send comments to Caryn. See ... http://www.modot.mo.gov/othertransportation/bike_ped/BikePedProgram--BPAC.htm.

Bike Maps Make News – MoDOT released its first draft state bicycle maps in October. Comments were collected and updates to the maps are in progress. Some bicyclists asked for the inclusion of paved county and city roads. MoDOT does not currently have that information. MoDOT is in the process of adding national trail routes to the maps. Please see the maps for the Joplin area (District 7), the Springfield area (District 8), the south central area (District 9) and the southeast area (District 10) to view the proposed TransAmerica Trail route. Send comments to Caryn. See ...

http://www.modot.mo.gov/othertransportation/bike_ped/Bike-PedProgram--RoadandRouteInfo.htm.

Plans to Create Katy Trail Spur – The city of Jefferson has received approval to receive \$700,000 in transportation enhancement funds to develop the \$898,000 Trailhead Park at the corner of Jefferson and Capital Avenue as the first step toward getting the Katy Trail extended across the Missouri River bridge and connecting it to the greenway system. The local match of \$198,000 will come from Capital Improvement Sales Tax and Local Parks Sales Tax funds designated for greenway improvements as well as in-kind donations of land and project management services from the Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Design and Construction. See ... <http://www.bikekatytrail.com/jeffersoncity.asp>.

State Statutes – We have updated copies of Missouri State Statutes regarding bicyclists and pedestrians that are printed on tyvek paper. Email me to request copies or see the MoDOT Web site to download an electronic copy ...

http://www.modot.mo.gov/othertransportation/bike_ped/BikePedPolicyandLegislation.htm.

MO SR2S Coordinator Hired – Todd Messenger has been selected as the coordinator for the Safe Routes to School Program. He has 12 years of experience with MoDOT serving as a district utilities engineer, highway designer, bridge inspector, construction inspector and survey crew instrument operator. He joined the Highway Safety Division January 17.

Tour de Missouri??? – If you would like to be involved in the discussion stage regarding a professional bicycle race in Missouri, please contact Jody Larison in Governor Blunt's office at 573-751-2829 or email her at jody.larison@mo.gov.

Web Cam at Hermann Bridge – View the progress of the bridge construction, and watch bicycle and pedestrian accommodations be included! See ... <http://www.modot.mo.gov/hermannbridge.htm>.

A New Game – You Decide How to Spend Transportation Funds - A funding allocation game, challenges players to take care of the state's roads and bridges, as well as other modes of transportation that include aviation, waterways, public transportation and rails. It offers questions about freight, safety, technology, bicyclists and pedestrians and shows players the current funding allocation MoDOT uses. The game is part of MoDOT's *Missouri Advance Planning* or *MAP* initiative, which is a long-range planning effort based on public participation. It includes a statewide dialogue about what Missouri's transportation system could and should do for its citizens and how best to fulfill the expectations. See ... www.mapourfuture.org.

BP Funding Option – A new round of applications will be accepted February 1 to May 18 for the MoDOT Transportation Enhancement Program. This program will distribute \$37.5 million in 2006 to eligible projects. Representatives of local agencies or registered non-for-profit organizations may apply if the proposed project meets at least one of the federally established 12 eligible funding categories. The categories include Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities, and Safety and Education Activities for Bicycles and Pedestrians. Contact Brad Temme at 573-522-6995, or see the new guide (after February 1) ... <http://www.modot.mo.gov/business/manuals/localpublicagency.htm>.

More Rail-Trail in St. Louis – The Great Rivers Greenway District has acquired a two-mile stretch of an abandoned rail corridor from the Mississippi River to downtown St. Louis. Originally part of the Illinois Traction System streetcar network, the corridor includes a historic steel trestle and will be developed by the GRGD as a biking and pedestrian route. See ... <http://www.confluencegreenway.org/m-whatsnew.php>.

Missouri Fatality Rate Low – According to the 2004 Traffic Safety Facts from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, Missouri ranks third lowest in bicyclist fatalities. See ... <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/TSF2004/809912.pdf>.

NATIONAL NEWS

Safe Routes to School Model – The new federal transportation law, SAFETEA-LU, requires each state department of transportation to hire one full-time Safe Routes to School Coordinator. The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation and the League of Illinois Bicyclists have created a model for other states to follow. See ... <http://www.biketraffic.org/downloads/SR2S>><http://www.biketraffic.org/downloads/SR2S><<http://www.biketraffic.org/downloads/SR2S>>.org/downloads/SR2S.

National SR2S Guidance – The Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety will provide guidance through its Web site at <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/index.htm> or contact Tim Arnade, Safe Routes to School Program Manager, FHWA Office of Safety, 202-366-2205, tim.arnade@fhwa.dot.gov. Bikes Belong has information to help set up local Safe Routes to School programs. See ... <http://bikesbelong.org/site/page.cfm?PageID=294>.

Spotlight on Bikes Belong – This group is the national coalition of bicycle suppliers and retailers working together to put more people on bicycles more often. Through national leadership, grassroots support and promotion, the group works to make bicycling safe, convenient and fun. It helped gain \$4.5 billion for bicyclists and pedestrians in the federal transportation law, provides seed money for the Safe Routes to School National Partnership and gives cash grants for bicycle projects that leverage federal funding.

Goals achieved in 2005 include the following.

- Funded the successful campaign that secured \$4.5 billion in new federal funding for bicycling and walking
- Launched the Safe Routes to School National Partnership to boost the new national Safe Routes to School program
- Continued as lead sponsor of the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Communities program; Served as title sponsor for the National Bike Summit—the powerful annual lobbying event on Capitol Hill
- Awarded \$160,000 in grassroots grants across the country to build more facilities and get more people riding bikes
- Completed a full-color booklet, *Bicycling: Moving America Forward*, to portray the benefits of bicycling in America
- Collected \$30,000 in individual donations for BikesPAC, and contributed the money to campaigns of members of Congress who support bicycling.

See ... <http://bikesbelong.org>.

Draft Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines –The US Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has draft guidelines, which address accessibility in the public rights of way. The board will issue a notice of proposed rulemaking at a future date and will solicit comments at that time, prior to issuing a final rule. See ... <http://tinyurl.com/9ugsw> and <http://tinyurl.com/7nzmd>.

OTHER NEWS

When Can Johnny Walk to School Again? – As students at Fairfield Senior High School in suburban Cincinnati headed back to school this year, they got a message from the local police: Don't even think about walking. Law officers issued the warning after the school district eliminated bus service for high school kids during a budget crisis. The school, built in 1997, is set among busy, multi-lane roads with no sidewalks; even students living within a mile of the school were taking the bus if they didn't go by car. Police were terrified about kids trying to navigate that dangerous environment on foot. See ... <http://www.nsbm.org/articles/item.php?id=131>.

Bike Skyways Designed – Toronto (Canada) architect Chris Hardwicke has created an interesting conceptual design, a network of elevated tubes above the city for bikes. Using a fluid-dynamics system, bicyclists would always have a tailwind while traveling in the tubes, permitting higher than average travel speeds. See ... <http://www.velo-city.ca/MainFrameset.htm>.

New Vehicle "Sees" Pedestrians – A car capable of spotting pedestrians who stray into the road is called the Save-U system. Developed by a consortium including Volkswagen, DaimlerChrysler and several other technical companies, a prototype has already undergone successful testing in the UK. See ... <http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn8574>.

Pedestrians Have Speed Limits in Ireland – The Irish government is cracking down on reckless pedestrians in Dublin. New speed limits will be imposed on pedestrians walking along busy city centre streets such as Grafton St and Henry St. See ... <http://tinyurl.com/9cy2r>

INTERESTING WEBSITES

Walkable Community Information ...

America's Walking list - <http://tinyurl.com/98llo>

Cool Town Studios' list - <http://tinyurl.com/7utb6>

E Podunk's list - <http://tinyurl.com/8sebm>

America Walks - <http://tinyurl.com/b2cz8>

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Adventure Cycling ... <http://www.adventurecycling.org>

American Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals ... <http://www.apbp.org/>

Bikes Belong Coalition ... <http://www.bikesbelong.org>

BPC Contact Info ... http://www.bikewalk.org/contacts_links/state_bikeped_coord.htm

Channing-Bete Company ... www.channing-bete.com

Columbia PedNet Coalition ... <http://www.pednet.org>

Complete the Streets ... www.completestreets.org

Institute of Transportation Engineers ... <http://www.ite.org/>

League of American Bicyclists ... <http://www.bikeleague.org>, bill@bikeleague.org

MRT Listserv ... <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mississippirivertrail/> and <http://mississippirivertrail.org>

Missouri Bicycle Federation ... www.mobikefed.org, brent@brenthugh.com

National Center for Bicycling & Walking ... <http://www.bikewalk.org>, info@bikewalk.org

Rails to Trails Conservancy ... <http://www.railtrails.org/>, membership@railtrails.org

Traffic Safety Center ... <http://www.tsc.berkeley.edu/>

Transportation Research Board ... <http://www.trb.org>, rhouston@nas.edu

Victoria Transport Policy Institute ... litman@vtpi.org, <http://www.vtpi.org>

CALENDAR

March 1-3: National Bike Summit, Washington, D.C. See ... <http://tinyurl.com/b92du>

March 28-30: Transportation and Economic Development 2006, Little Rock, AR. Contact ... Mark Norman at MNorman@nas.edu, <http://tinyurl.com/am3hk>.

May 9-11: Thunderhead Training, Washington, D.C. See ... <http://www.thunderheadalliance.org>.

May 15-19: Bike to Work/School Week.

May 17: Ride of Silence at 7 p.m. to honor bicyclists killed or injured while riding on the road. See ... www.rideofsilence.org.

June 1-4: Congress for New Urbanism, Providence, RI. See ... <http://www.cnu.org>.

September 5-8: ProWalk/ProBike, the 14th International Conference on Bicycling and Walking in Madison, WI. See ... <http://www.mononaterrace.com/>.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you feel may be interested. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be added, please tell me!

Tailwinds, Caryn

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www.modot.mo.gov/othertransportation/bike_ped/Bikepedprogramintro.htm

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.